

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, March 6, 1896, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Ave., Washington, D. C. March 6th., 1896. My darling Alec:

I was greatly disturbed to hear through Mr. McCurdy of your illness and should be more so but that Mamma telephoned Chicago this morning and heard that you were better and out. I had no idea that illness had anything to do with your change of plans as my last accounts from you both spoke of your being better. I thought that you had found so much to do in Chicago that you had decided to send Mr. McCurdy to Baddeck and had given up the idea of returning there yourself. I don't see why this would not be a good idea. Then you would not be so fearfully hurried and worried. I wrote you to Oshkosh about my dinner party. It really was very nice although Mr and Mrs Kennan did not come. I suspect now that if I had been just a little bit smarter and sent the carriage for them, they would have come. I missed you horribly when the guests came and through dinner, still everything went off nicely. I was dressed before anyone came but was very much hurried as we put off making up the table until the last minute on Mr. and Mrs. Kennan's account. Mamma had two extra leaves made for her big round table top and I borrowed it. I had five vases of flowers and eighteen candlesticks and a good deal of plate on the table, still it looked bare, it was so big. Papa arranged the people for me and I told the gentlemen their partners until Charlie came and then turned that over to him. The guests staid late.

Next evening Papa and I went to Mrs. Dale's to dine with Mr. and Mrs. Kennen. He had a splendid time and I did not want to come away. I was introduced to somebody whose name I did not catch, but who is the son of the physician who attended me through the scarlet fever. He is also, Dr. Burnett said, about the greatest living authority 2 on children's

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counting-out games. I thought he would be just the man you would like to meet. He and his wife are living here now.

This evening I spent in Georgetown playing whist with your Father and Mother. They are very well. I think they like my coming out. Tomorrow I dine with Papa to meet Mr. and Mrs. Kennan, Mrs. White as usual has not turned up as expected. Mamma is preparing to go to Johns Hopkins for an operation on the other eye. Mrs. Poe is with Miss Henry here, I made a long call on her. Her son died seven weeks after his marriage and just a short time before the General. Out of four children she now has but one left. Carrie left for home Thursday, I think she liked the dinner.

Little Gracie's team in Basket Ball has been playing against the Kendall Green girls team. Gracie's team went out there the other day and yesterday the Kendallers played them here. I went down to see the match, or rather I didn't do anything of the kind, but went down for Grace and staid to see it. Mr. Chickering was there and some others. I did not know what to do because I was uncertain how he would treat me and I had no mind to be snubbed so finally I merely bowed. He returned it but made no effort to speak to me. Ordinarily I would have gone up at once and shaken hands, perhaps they now think me very snobby. But I didn't want to be treated as those young men treated you. None of the girls could talk or at least made any attempt to talk to the hearing girls or each other. Grace's team won each time.

Goodnight. I love you, Yours ever, May.